



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2007

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Rep. Shuler Encouraged by National Park Service Report on North Shore Road

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler released the following statement in response to the National Park Service's update on the status of the North Shore Road Environmental Impact Statement:

“As a Swain County native, I have a deep, personal understanding of the issues and emotions surrounding the North Shore Road. This issue has divided Swain County and much of Western North Carolina for over sixty years, and I am very encouraged that today's announcement signals that a resolution is near.”

“A monetary settlement between the federal government and Swain County will protect the undisturbed forests and streams of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and save the American taxpayers millions of dollars.”

“In the months ahead, I will continue to work closely with all the parties involved to bring much needed closure as quickly as possible to this issue.”

Earlier this year Rep. Shuler joined with Senators Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Bob Corker (R-TN) and thirteen Members of Congress from North Carolina and Tennessee in sending a letter to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne asking for a monetary settlement between the federal government and the residents of Swain County rather than further construction of the road.

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